UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.105/L.192
30 May 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE
Thirty-fourth session
Graz, Austria
27 May-7 June 1991

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its thirty-fourth session at Graz, Austria from 27 May to 7 June 1991. The officers of the Committee were the following:

Chairman: Mr. Peter Hohenfellner (Austria)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Aurel Dragos Munteanu (Romania)

Rapporteur: Mr. Flavio Miragaia Perri (Brazil)

The verbatim records of the Committee's meetings are contained in documents A/AC.105/PV.351-3...

Meetings of subsidiary bodies

2. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee held its twenty-eighth session at United Nations Headquarters from 19 February to 1 March 1991 under the chairmanship of Mr. John H. Carver (Australia). The report of the Subcommittee was issued as document A/AC.105/483.

3. The Legal Subcommittee held its thirtieth session at United Nations Headquarters from 25 March to 12 April 1991, under the chairmanship of Mr. Václav Mikulka (Czechoslovakia). The report of the Subcommittee was issued as document A/AC.105/484. The summary records of the Subcommittee's meetings are contained in documents A/AC.105/C.2/SR.539-549.

4. At its opening meeting, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Statement by the Chairman.

4. Election of the new Chairman

0.91-35744

5. General exchange of views.

6. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

7. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its twenty-eighth session.

8. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirtieth session.

9. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

10. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.

11. Other matters.

12. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

Membership and attendance

5. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1721 E (XVI) of 20 December 1961, 3182 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, 32/196 B of 20 December 1977 and 35/16 of 3 November 1980, and with decision 45/315 of 11 December 1990, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was composed of the following Member States: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia.

6. At its 351st and 356th meetings, the Committee decided to invite, at their request, the representatives of Greece, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Peru, Spain, Thailand and the Holy See to attend the thirty-fourth session of the Committee and to address it, as appropriate, on the understanding that this would be without prejudice to further requests of this nature and that it would not involve any decision of the Committee concerning status.

7. Representatives of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) also attended the session.

8. Representatives of the European Space Agency (ESA), the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT), the Council on International Cooperation in the Study and Utilization of Outer Space (INTERCOSMOS), the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and the International Law Association (ILA) also attended the session.

9. A list of representatives attending the session is contained in document A/AC.105/XXXIV/INF/1.

Commemoration

10. The Committee took note of the thirtieth anniversary of the first human space flight on 12 April 1961 by the Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin of the USSR.

Proceedings

11. At the opening of the session, at the 351st meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs made a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General. The Mayor of the City of Graz, the Governor of the State of Styria and the Foreign Minister of Austria also made statements of welcome to the Committee.

12. At the 351st meeting, the Chairman of the Committee, in his final statement in that capacity, reviewed the achievements of the Committee over the last twenty years and the highlights of space activities during the past year, summarized the work of the Committee's subsidiary bodies and outlined the work before the Committee. He called upon the Committee to continue its tradition of cooperation and consensus in strengthening international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The text of the Chairman's statement is annexed to the present report (see annex I).

12. In his statement, Ambassador Peter Jankowitsch (Austria) announced that, as a result of having been named to a new post by his Government, he was unable to continue as Chairman of the Committee. The Committee, at its 351st meeting, elected Ambassador Peter Hohenfellner (Austria) as its new Chairman.

13. At the 352nd meeting, the Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division of the Secretariat made a statement reviewing the work of the Division during the previous year.

14. At its 351st to 354th meetings, from 27 to 29 May 1991, the Committee held a general exchange of views, in the course of which statements were made by the representatives of Argentina (speaking also on behalf of Brazil), Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, the Holy See, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Turkey, Ukrainian SSR, the USSR, the United States and Yugoslavia (see A/AC.105/PV.351-354).

15. The representatives of UNDRO, ESA, INTELSAT, INTERCOSMOS, COSPAR, IAF and ILA, as well as the Expert on Space Applications of the Outer Space Affairs Division, also made statements (see A/AC.105/PV.353-354 and 356).

16. During the session, a special presentation was made by Mr. Jiri Kraml, Senior Relief Coordinator, UNDRO, on "Disaster Relief Management".

17. After considering the various items before it, the Committee, at its ...th meeting, on ... June 1991, adopted its report to the General Assembly containing the recommendations and decisions set out in the paragraphs below.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.105/L.192/Add.1
30 May 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE
Thirty-fourth session
Graz, Austria
27 May-7 June 1991

II. RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS

A. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes (agenda item 6)

1. In accordance with paragraph 26 of General Assembly resolution 45/72 of 11 December 1991, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space continued its consideration, as a matter of priority, of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

2. The Committee was of the view that the request of the General Assembly, in its resolution 45/72, to the Committee to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon, showed the concern felt by the international community and the need to promote international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, taking into account the needs of the developing countries. The Committee, through its work in the scientific, technical and legal fields, had an important role to play in assuring that outer space was maintained for peaceful purposes. It was the firm belief of the members of the Committee that developments that would strengthen the role of the Committee in maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes should continue. The Committee had responsibilities relating to the strengthening of the international basis for the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space, which could cover, among other matters, further development of international space law, including, as appropriate, the preparation of international agreements governing various practical peaceful applications of the achievements of space science and technology. Strengthening international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space also implied the need for the Committee itself to improve, whenever necessary, the methods and forms of its work.

3. The Committee agreed that a good way to broaden and deepen international cooperation in outer space was through international and regional programmes undertaken as part of universal endeavours such as International Space Year.

G.91-35760

4. Some delegations expressed the view that the Committee should complement the work being done in bilateral and multilateral forums towards preventing an extension of the arms race into outer space and could provide substantive input to the discussions and negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament. They also expressed the view that the Committee should be kept informed as to the progress made by the Conference on questions related to preventing an extension of the arms race into outer space and that working contacts should be established between the two bodies, including contacts through the Chairman of the Committee and the Chairman of the Conference's ad hoc Committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. They further expressed the view that the peaceful uses of outer space were inseparably linked to the non-peaceful uses, and that promoting and strengthening the peaceful uses of outer space required effective measures to prevent an extension of the arms race into outer space.

5. Other delegations expressed the view that disarmament questions did not fall within the competence of the Committee. They pointed out that, within the United Nations, the question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space was within the exclusive competence of the First Committee of the General Assembly and of the Conference on Disarmament. Some of those delegations expressed the view that the Committee should avoid extraneous and divisive topics such as disarmament and concentrate on strengthening the scientific and technical content of its work and on efforts to broaden and deepen co-operation by all countries in outer space activities. Some of those delegations felt that it would be inappropriate to undertake any exchange of information between the two bodies and questioned the need to have any contacts between them.

6. Still other delegations believed that the promotion of the peaceful uses of outer space should be dealt with in the Committee, and the prevention of an arms race in outer space in the Conference, without, however, dividing their work into two exclusive compartments.

7. Some delegations noted that a number of proposals had been made with a view to promoting broad international and regional co-operation with a view to maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes. In their view, those proposals included: the establishment of a world space organization; a ban on the stationing of weapons in outer space; unilateral commitments not to place weapons in outer space; a ban on the use of force in outer space or from space to the Earth; the strengthening of confidence-building measures in space, such as agreement on a minimum distance between satellites; and establishment of a system for monitoring space activities to ensure that outer space was used for exclusively peaceful purposes.

8. Some delegations reiterated the view that the best way for the Committee to contribute to maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes was to promote international co-operation further by revitalizing its work and that of its subcommittees. In that connection, they proposed the establishment of a working group under the item to explore ways to make the work of the Committee and its subcommittees more effective.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.105/L.192/Add.1/Corr.1
6 June 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE
Thirty-fourth session
Graz, Austria
27 May-7 June 1991

II. RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS

A. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes (agenda item 6)

Corrigendum

Page 2, paragraph 4

For the existing text substitute

4. Some delegations expressed the view that the Committee should complement the work being done in bilateral and multilateral forums towards preventing an extension of the arms race into outer space and could provide substantive input to the discussions and negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament. Some of them further pointed out that the scope of priority items on the agenda of the Committee is very vast and goes far beyond purely disarmament areas including, for example, such questions as prevention of conflicts and incidents and confidence building measures. These delegations emphasized that the Committee should analyze the entire scope of the item and devise and recommend appropriate measures. They noted that some proposals that are within the clear competence of the Committee are already being considered by the Conference on Disarmament. In this connection, while recognizing the unique competence of the Conference on Disarmament on the questions relating to the prevention of arms race in outer space, they expressed the view that the Committee should be kept informed as to the progress made by the Conference on the questions and that working contact should be established between the two bodies, including contacts through the Chairman of the Committee and the Chairman of the Conference's ad hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space. They further expressed the view that the peaceful uses of outer space were inseparably linked to the non-peaceful uses, and that promoting and strengthening the peaceful uses of outer space required effective measures to prevent militarization of outer space.

0.91-35825

Page 2, paragraph 6

For the existing text substitute

6. Still other delegations expressed the view that the promotion of the peaceful uses of outer space should be dealt with in the Committee, and the prevention of an arms race in outer space in the Conference, without, however, dividing their work into two exclusive compartments, since it was clear that on some outer space questions there would necessarily be an overlap. The important thing was that the Committee with primary responsibility pursue its own task, mindful of the concerns of the complementary body.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.105/L.192/Add.2
3 June 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE
Thirty-fourth session
Graz, Austria
27 May-7 June 1991

B. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its twenty-eighth session

Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (agenda items 7 and 9)

1. The Committee conducted a joint consideration of agenda items 7 and 9, entitled "Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its twenty-eighth session" and "Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space", respectively.

2. The Committee took note with appreciation of the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its twenty-eighth session (A/AC.105/483), covering the results of its deliberations on the items assigned to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/72.

1. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

(a) Working Group of the Whole

3. The Committee noted with satisfaction that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/72, the Subcommittee had given priority consideration to the item entitled "Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" and had re-established the Working Group of the Whole to evaluate the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82) 1/ under the chairmanship of Mr. Muhammad Nasim Shah (Pakistan).

4. The Committee noted with satisfaction that a number of reports related to the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 had been prepared in accordance with the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole at its fourth session in 1990, as endorsed by the General Assembly in paragraph 10 of its resolution 45/72. The Committee also noted that further studies and reports would be undertaken in accordance with the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole at its fifth session, held in 1991.

5. The Committee noted that the Working Group of the Whole had reviewed the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82, had concluded that many of the recommendations were still not fully implemented and had made a number of recommendations concerning the further implementation of the recommendations of the Conference. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole, as contained in its report (A/AC.105/483, annex II).

6. The Committee endorsed the decision of the Working Group to make, at its next session, a comprehensive assessment of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82. It noted that the Secretariat, at the request of the Working Group, would prepare a background paper, taking into account previous reports already prepared by the Secretariat, to assist the Working Group.

7. The Committee recommended that the Working Group of the Whole should be reconvened during the next session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to continue its work.

8. The Committee, while expressing its appreciation to all Governments that had made or had expressed their intention of making, contributions for the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82, took note of the disappointment expressed by the developing countries at the lack of financial resources to implement fully those recommendations.

(b) United Nations Programme on Space Applications

9. At the outset of the Committee's deliberations on this item, the United Nations Expert on Space Applications of the Outer Space Affairs Division reviewed the activities carried out and planned under the Programme on Space Applications during the period 1990-1992. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Expert on Space Applications for the effective manner in which he had implemented the Programme within the limited funds at his disposal.

10. Some delegations, noting the very limited economic resources available to the Programme, requested that the financial resources be increased so that the Programme's activities could be more fully implemented. Some delegations expressed concern that the contributions of space Powers and developed countries had not been commensurate with their capabilities.

11. The Committee took note of the Programme on Space Applications, as set out in the report of the Subcommittee. The Committee was pleased to note that further progress was being made in the implementation of the Programme activities planned for 1991.

(i) Long-range fellowships for in-depth training

12. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Austria, Brazil, China and the USSR, as well as to ESA, for offering fellowships through the United Nations in 1990-1991 and for renewing their offers of fellowships for 1991-1992.

(ii) Technical advisory services

13. The Committee noted that the Programme had provided or would provide the following technical advisory services: to the Government of Costa Rica in the organization of the Space Conference of the Americas: Prospects of Cooperation for Development; to ESA and to African countries within range of ESA ground stations with respect to the selection of sites for the acquisition of satellite data for remote sensing applications and in support of application and training activities relating to the use of the data sets; to the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) for evaluating the remote-sensing programme of the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing at Nairobi; and to the Centro de Levantamientos Integrados de Recursos Naturales por Sensores Remotos (CLIRSEN) of Ecuador with respect to the provision of regional services by the Cotopaxi Remote Sensing Ground Receiving Station. The Committee also noted that, on the basis of funding made available from other sources for that purpose, the Programme would support conferences in collaboration with ECA for the benefits of African countries and in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) for the benefit of Asian and Pacific rim countries in 1993.

14. The Committee took note with interest of the offer made in the spirit of UNISPACE 82 on international cooperation by the Government of Chile to host a Second Space Conference of the Americas. In this connection, the Committee also noted also with interest the request of Chile that the Outer Space Affairs Division, on the basis of other resources made available for that purpose, consider supporting such a conference.

(iii) United Nations workshops/training courses/seminars/meetings of experts

15. Regarding the United Nations workshops, training courses, seminars and meetings of experts for 1991, the Committee expressed its appreciation to:

(a) The Government of India for co-sponsoring the United Nations/ESA Workshop on Basic Space Research, for the benefit of Member States in the ESCAP and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) regions;

(b) The Government of Spain for co-sponsoring the Third United Nations/FAO/ESA Workshop on Microwave Remote Sensing Technology, for the benefit of Member States in the ECA and ESCWA regions;

(c) The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as well as ECA and FAO, for co-sponsoring the Regional Seminar on Remote Sensing for Decision-Makers, for the benefit of Member States in the ECA region;

(d) The Government of the United States for co-sponsoring the International Training Course on Remote Sensing Applications for

Environmental Assessment and Monitoring, for the benefit of developing countries;

(e) The Government of China, as well as ESCAP and UNDRO, for co-sponsoring the United Nations/UNDRO/ESCAP Regional Workshop on Applications of Space Techniques to Combat Natural Disasters, for the benefit of States Members in the ESCAP region;

(f) The Government of Germany, as well as ESA, for co-sponsoring the Third United Nations International Training Course on the Use of Remote Sensing in Geological Sciences, for the benefit of developing countries;

(g) The Government of Peru, as well as FAO, WMO and ESA, for co-sponsoring the Sixth United Nations/FAO/WMO/ESA Training Course on the Applications of Remote Sensing in Agrometeorology and Hydrological Studies, for the benefit of countries in the ECLAC region;

(h) The Government of Canada, as well as IAF, for hosting and co-sponsoring the United Nations/IAF/Canada Workshop on Space Technologies for Development, for the benefit of developing countries.

16. The Committee endorsed the programme of United Nations workshops, training courses, seminars and meetings of experts proposed for 1992 as outlined by the United Nations Expert on Space Applications of the Outer Space Affairs Division in his report (see A/AC.105/478, para. 34) and recommended those activities for approval by the General Assembly. In so doing, the Committee welcomed the invitations from:

(a) The Government of the United States to host and co-sponsor the United Nations/United States International Conference on Satellite Remote Sensing for Resource Management, Environmental Assessment and Global Change Studies: Needs and Applications in the Developing World, for the benefit of developing countries;

(b) The Government of Sweden to host and co-sponsor the Second United Nations/Sweden International Training Course on Remote Sensing Education for Educators, for the benefit of developing countries;

(c) The Government of the USSR to host and co-sponsor the Third United Nations/USSR International Seminar on Satellite Communications, for the benefit of developing countries;

(d) The Government of China to host and co-sponsor the United Nations Regional Communications Workshop, for the benefit of Member States in the ESCAP region.

(e) The Governments of Ecuador and Japan for respectively hosting and financing a United Nations Workshop on Space Technology for Resource Development and Environmental Management, for the benefit of Member States in the ECLAC region;

(f) ESA, as well as FAO and WMO, for co-sponsoring the Seventh United Nations/FAO/WMO/ESA Training Course on the Applications of Remote Sensing

in Agrometeorological and Hydrological Studies, for the benefits of Member States ion the ECA region;

(g) The International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) and FAO for hosing and co-sponsoring a Training Course on Remote Sensing Applications, for the benefit of developing countries;

(h) The ICTP, UNESCO and WMO for co-sponsoring a Conference on Bridging the Information Gap in Space Science and Technology, to be held at United Nations Headquarters, for the benefit of developing countries;

(i) The IAF and COSPAR for co-sponsoring a Workshop on Space Technologies for Development - Making it Happen, for the benefit of developing countries;

(j) The ISPRS for co-sponsoring a Workshop on Data Analysis Methods and Applications, for the benefit of developing countries.

17. The Committee also noted with appreciation the financial contributions of $9,000 from the Government of Austria, $12,000 from the Government of Pakistan and $25,000 from ESA in support of the 1990 activities of the Programme on Space Applications, and the contributions of $7000 from the Government of Greece and $75,000 from ESA in support of the 1991 activities. The Committee also noted with appreciation the provision of experts, as instructors and speakers in the activities of the Programme on Space Applications, by the host countries and other countries. The Committee also noted the financial and other assistance provided by ESCAP, FAO, UNDP, UNESCO, WMO and ESA.

(iv) Promotion of greater co-operation in space science and technology

18. Regarding the promotion of greater co-operation in space science and technology, the Committee noted with satisfaction that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications in 1990 had collaborated with IAF by co-sponsoring a special session on "Space and Forest Management" during the 1991 IAF Congress, held at Dresden, Germany, and with COSPAR by co-sponsoring a special panel on the "Equatorial Electrojet and Related Phenomena" during the 1990 Plenary Meeting of COSPAR, held at the Hague. The Committee further noted that the Programme was planning future collaboration with ISPRS by co-sponsoring a special workshop for developing countries at the 1992 Congress of the ISPRS, and with COSPAR and IAF on a workshop for developing countries in conjunction with the 1992 World Space Congress at Washington.

(c) International Space Information Service

19. With regard to the International Space Information Service, the Committee noted with satisfaction the publication of: the second volume of Seminars of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (A/AC.105/468), containing selected papers from the seminars, workshops and training courses of the 1990 Programme; an addendum to the list of experts in space technology and applications (A/AC.105/460/Add.1); and a report on the economic aspects of expanding and strengthening national and regional

data banks and establishing an international space information service (A/AC.105/474). The Committee noted that a number of previous publications would be updated for 1992: The Directory of Education, Training, Research and Fellowship Opportunities in Space Science and Technology and its Applications (A/AC.105/432 and Add.1); The Directory of Information Systems on Space Science and Technology (A/AC.105/397/Rev.1 and Add.1; and the list of experts in space technology and applications (A/AC.105/460/Add.1).

(d) Co-ordination of space activities within the United Nations system and inter-agency co-operation

20. With regard to co-ordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system and inter-agency co-operation, the Committee noted the request of the General Assembly, contained in its resolution 45/72, to all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to co-operate in the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82.

21. The Committee further noted with appreciation that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had continued to stress the necessity of ensuring continuous and effective consultations and co-ordination in the field of outer space activities among organizations within the United Nations system. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the twelfth Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities had been held in 1990 (see ACC/1990/PG/9) and that a report on co-ordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system had been submitted to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/465). The Committee also noted with appreciation that the thirteenth Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities would be held in September 1991 at UNDRO in Geneva.

22. The Committee noted with appreciation the participation in all stages of its work and in that of its Subcommittee by representatives of United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other international organizations. The Committee found the reports submitted by those bodies helpful in enabling it and its subsidiary bodies to fulfil their role as a focal point for international co-operation, especially with respect to the practical applications of space science and technology in developing countries.

(e) Regional and interregional co-operation mechanisms

23. Regarding regional and interregional co-operation mechanisms, the Committee noted with satisfaction that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/72, paragraph 14, and the recommendations of UNISPACE 82, the Secretariat had continued to seek to strengthen regional mechanisms of co-operation by organizing regional workshops and training courses as part of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and by providing technical assistance to ECA, the Sociedad de Especialistas Latinoamericanos en Percepción Remota (SELPER) and to other regional activities in Africa and Latin America.

24. The Committee noted with satisfaction that a number of Member States in the ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA regions had expressed interest in hosting the proposed regional centres for education in space science and technology, based on existing national or regional educational institutions

in developing countries, as outlined in the report of the Expert (A/AC.105/478, paras. 35 to 44). The Committee noted that evaluation missions, which will include representatives of the United Nations system and potential donor countries, were being planned to evaluate the potential host institutions. The Committee urged Member States to consider providing voluntary contributions to support that effort.

25. The Committee noted the contributions made by other international organizations towards the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82. In particular, the Committee noted: that UNDRO was promoting the use of communication satellites for emergency communications for disaster relief operations; that FAO, through its Remote-Sensing Centre, was continuing its efforts to assist developing countries in the applications of remote sensing; that ITU was continuing its work in coordinating international telecommunications and providing advisory services to developing countries; that ESA was continuing its space science and applications programmes, including activities in cooperation with developing countries; that INMARSAT was continuing to develop its system of maritime and aeronautical communication satellites, including the use of small and low-cost terminals of particular interest to developing countries; that INTELSAT was continuing to develop its system of international communication satellites for use by all countries and was expanding its training programme for developing countries; and that INTERCOSMOS was continuing its efforts to promote international cooperation in space science, with participation by developing countries.

2. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, including, inter alia, applications for developing countries

26. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/72, the Subcommittee had given priority consideration to matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites.

27. The Committee also noted that, in the course of the debate in the Subcommittee, delegations had reaffirmed their basic positions relating to remote sensing, which had been reflected in the reports of the previous sessions of the Subcommittee.

28. The Committee recognized the importance of continuing international efforts to ensure the continuity, compatibility and complementarity of systems for remote sensing of the Earth and to promote co-operation through regular meetings between satellite operators, ground station operators and users.

29. The Committee recognized the example of international co-operation given by the free distribution of meteorological information. All countries and agencies were urged to continue that practice.

30. Some delegations expressed serious concern over the commercialization of remote-sensing activities and suggested that the prices of remote-sensing data products and access fees for data reception should be reduced significantly so as to make them affordable for the developing countries and enable the latter to benefit fully from the use of remote-sensing technology.

31. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee that, recalling General Assembly resolution 41/65 of 3 December 1986 by which the Assembly had adopted the Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space, it would continue, at its twenty-ninth session, its discussion on remote-sensing activities conducted in accordance with those principles.

32. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee that the item should be retained on its agenda as a priority item for the next session.

3. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

33. The Committee noted that, in accordance with resolution 45/72, the Subcommittee had given priority consideration to the item relating to use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

34. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee that Member States should be invited to report to the Secretary-General on a regular basis with regard to national and international research concerning the safety of nuclear powered satellites.

35. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee that further studies should be conducted on the problem of the collision of nuclear power sources with space debris and the Subcommittee should be kept informed of the results of such studies.

36. The view was expressed that the scientific and technical guidelines for the safe use of nuclear power sources in outer space needed certain changes to enhance their technical strength. Other delegations expressed the view that negotiations on the guidelines should not be reopened.

37. Noting the Subcommittee's recommendation that the Committee consider the question of reconvening the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, the Committee recommended that the Subcommittee could, if necessary, reconvene the Working Group in order to continue work on the subject.

38. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee that the item should be retained on its agenda for the next session.

4. Space transportation systems

39. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/72, the Subcommittee had continued consideration of the item relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space.

40. The Committee took note of the progress being achieved in the various programmes in operation or planned by China, Japan, the USSR, the United States and ESA.

41. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee to continue consideration of the item at its next session.

5. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries

42. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/72, the Subcommittee had continued the consideration of the item relating to the geostationary orbit.

43. The Committee noted that delegations had reiterated and elaborated on the views concerning the question of the geostationary orbit that had been expressed at earlier sessions and reflected in earlier reports of the Committee and its two subcommittees.

44. The Committee expressed its appreciation to ITU for submitting its thirtieth annual progress report on telecommunication and the peaceful uses of outer space (A/AC.105/488). Some delegations, in their statements, stressed the important technical scope of the work of ITU, while drawing attention to the competence of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in preparing policy decisions that refer to the geostationary orbit.

45. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee that it continue consideration of the item at its next session.

6. Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine; progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme; matters relating to planetary exploration; matters relating to astronomy

46. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/72, the Subcommittee had continued to consider the items concerning matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine; progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme; matters relating to planetary exploration; and matters relating to astronomy.

47. The Committee noted with satisfaction that a number of special presentations had been made to the Subcommittee on those items by specialists from various countries. The Committee expressed its appreciation to COSPAR for its informative presentation on progress in the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme.

48. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Subcommittee to continue consideration of the above items at its next session.

7. Themes fixed for special attention at the 1991 and 1992 sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

49. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/72, the Subcommittee had considered the theme fixed for special attention at the 1991 session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: "Applications of airborne and satellite remote sensing for prospecting mineral and ground-water resources and for monitoring and managing biological resources, with emphasis on agriculture, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries".

50. The Committee noted with satisfaction that, in accordance with Assembly resolution 45/72, COSPAR and IAF had conducted a symposium on the theme. The Committee expressed its appreciation to COSPAR and IAF for their generous support of the work of the Subcommittee.

51. The Committee noted the important contributions of satellite remote sensing for geological prospecting, for ground water development, for water resources management, for agricultural planning and for forest management.

52. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee that the new theme fixed for special attention at the 1992 session of the Subcommittee should be "Space technology and the protection of the Earth's environment: development of endogenous capabilities, in particular in the developing countries and in the context of International Space Year". It also endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee that COSPAR and IAF, in liaison with and under the guidance of Member States, should be invited to arrange a symposium on that theme, with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the Subcommittee's session to complement discussions within the Subcommittee on the special theme.

53. The Committee had before it a summary of the scientific and technical presentations made during the twenty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/487).

54. Some delegations, while recognizing the significance of the scientific and technical presentations to the Sub-Committee, expressed the view that the presentations should not interfere with the substantive work of the Sub-Committee, which should have priority over such presentations. Some of those delegations expressed the view that the unique role of the Subcommittee as an intergovernmental forum should be strengthened. Those delegations further expressed the view that the task of the Subcommittee was to discuss policies and guidelines for international co-operation in space activities and to provide agreed technical parameters in order to help the development of the international regulation of the peaceful uses of outer space.

8. International Space Year

55. The Committee agreed that International Space Year provided an opportunity to strengthen and expand international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space and noted the importance of including all countries in the activities of the Year. The Committee noted that this was

particularly important considering that International Space Year coincides the the tenth anniversary of UNISPACE 82.

56. The Committee noted that the General Assembly, in resolution 45/72, had urged Member States and international organizations to consider supporting the efforts of the United Nations in connection with International Space Year (ISY). The Committee took note of the proposed programme for the participation of the United Nations in ISY on the basis of voluntary contributions, as described in the second edition of the guidebook, "UN-ISY 1992: The Participation of the United Nations System in International Space Year".

57. The Committee noted that the United Nations, in the context of ISY, was planning an exhibition based on observations of the Earth from space, a series of videos, an essay contest and a commemorative stamp on the theme of ISY. It further noted that Member States were participating in and contributing to a number of those activities.

58. The Committee noted that the United Nations ISY activities were being planned to be complementary to the activities of international organizations such as COSPAR, IAF, ISPRS and the Space Agency Forum for International Space Year (SAFISY), and that the United Nations activities would promote the participation of developing countries in ISY activities. The Committee noted that the Secretary-General had sent a note verbale to Member States inviting additional proposals and voluntary contributions from Member States in support of United Nations ISY activities.

59. The Committee expressed its appreciation to those Member States and international organizations that had offered voluntary contributions in support of those activities. The Committee noted that generous voluntary contributions were needed from Member States, international organizations and other sources acceptable to the United Nations in order to successfully execute United Nations ISY activities through the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, since the Programme was dependent on voluntary contributions for most of its activities. The Committee urged other Member States, international organizations and other funding sources to support the activities planned by the United Nations as part of International Space Year.

60. The Committee took note of the national and international activities being planned for International Space Year, including activities planned through the Space Agency Forum on International Space Year, the plans of COSPAR and IAF for celebrating 1992 as International Space Year with a joint World Space Congress to be held at Washington, and activities relating to "Mission to Planet Earth". The Committee noted the importance of the participation of all countries, in particular developing countries, in those activities.

61. Noting that a number of Member States had previously provided information to the Subcommittee and the Committee concerning activities to be undertaken in cooperation with the United Nations in the context of International Space Year, as contained in the guidebook and in documents A/AC.105/445 and Adds. 1-4, the Committee welcomed the proposed contributions of Japan to United Nations participation in International

Space Year, including a United Nations Regional Workshop on Space Technology for Resource Development and Environment Management, support for the United Nations Exhibition, special videos on space science, participation in the United Nations essay contest, and the provision of two staff members to the Outer Space Affairs Division. The Committee also noted that Japan was planning a number of conferences, workshops, seminars and training courses, with the participation of experts from developing countries, and was studying ways and means of contributing to the proposed regional centres for space science and technology education, as described in A/AC.105/445/Add.5.

62. The Committee noted the primary focus of ISY activities on the use of space technology for studying and monitoring the global environment. It also noted that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was being planned for 1992 and that the General Assembly, in resolution 45/72, had recommended that Member States, in planning their ISY activities, should consider ways in which those activities could complement the efforts under way for the Conference.

63. The Committee took note of the preparations being made for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including participation by various bodies of the United Nations system, as presented in a statement by a representative of the Conference Secretariat. The Committee found the information provided useful and expressed its appreciation to the Conference Secretariat for providing the information, in accordance with the recommendation of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. The Committee invited the Conference Secretariat to keep it informed of further developments in the preparations for the Conference.

64. The Committee took note of the proposal that in 1992, the Committee itself and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should dedicate at least one meeting of their regular sessions to International Space Year and recommended that the General Assembly should do the same while considering the report of the Committee.

9. Space and Earth environment

65. The Committee noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 45/72, had recommended that more attention should be paid to all aspects related to the protection and preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth's environment.

66. The Committee also noted that the General Assembly, in the same resolution, had considered that it was essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of collisions with space debris and called for the continuation of national research on the question. The General Assembly, in the same resolution, had also considered that space debris could be an appropriate subject for discussion by the Committee in the future.

67. The Committee agreed that there was a need for further research concerning space debris, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of

data on space debris. The Committee also noted the importance of international cooperation in addressing those issues.

68. The Committee noted that the Subcommittee had agreed that information on national research on space debris might be provided to the Subcommittee, as had been done in the past, through working papers, interventions in the general debate and technical presentations by specialists from Member States and COSPAR and IAF.

69. Some delegations expressed the view that the question of space debris should be included on the Subcommittee's agenda at its next session, allowing for a general exchange of views and information. Other delegations, while recognizing the importance of the subject, expressed the view that such consideration was premature until further national research on the problem of space debris had been completed.

70. The Committee noted the importance of satellite remote sensing for monitoring the Earth's environment, and in particular for studying and monitoring global change.

71. The Committee took note of a working paper submitted by Poland (A/AC.105/L.190) calling for the preparation of a report on the preservation and protection of the outer space environment, especially activities potentially affecting the Earth environment.

Notes

1/ Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 9-21 August 1982 (A/CONF.101/10 and Corr.1 and 2).

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.105/L.192/Add.2/Corr.1
5 June 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE
Thirty-fourth session
Graz, Austria
27 May-7 June 1991

B. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its twenty-eighth session

Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (agenda items 7 and 9)

Corrigendum

Insert the following sentence following the first sentence in paragraph 60

The Committee also noted the proposal in the context of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme for a series of polar-orbiting satellites called "PEACE" (Protection of Environment for Assuring Cleaner Earth) with sensors for continuous global monitoring of the Earth's environment.

Replace paragraph 68 with the following paragraph

68. The Committee agreed that information on national research on space debris could be provided to the Subcommittee, as had been done in the past, in order to allow the Subcommittee to follow this area more closely. In this connection, the Committee requested that the Secretariat invite Member States to provide such information on their national research to the Subcommittee.

G.91-35798

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.105/L.192/Add.3
5 June 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE
Thirty-fourth session
Graz, Austria
27 May-7 June 1991

C. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirtieth session (agenda item 8)

1. The Committee took note with appreciation of the report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirtieth session (A/AC.105/484), which contained the results of its deliberations on the items assigned to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/72.

2. The Committee took note of the "Draft for a Convention on Manned Space Flight" which had been presented to the Legal Subcommittee by the representative of the International Astronautical Federation.

1. The elaboration of draft principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, with the aim of finalizing the draft set of principles

3. The Committee noted that the Subcommittee, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/72, had continued to consider this item through its Working Group under the chairmanship of Mr. H. Winkler (Austria).

4. The Committee noted the work carried out by the Subcommittee and the Working Group, as reflected in their reports (A/AC.105/484, paras. 21-27, and annex I).

5. The Committee noted that the delegations of Canada and Germany had submitted to the Subcommittee a revised version of the Working Paper submitted by Canada (A/AC.105/C.2/L.154/Rev.9).

6. The Committee noted that informal consultations on the remaining draft principles had continued during its session and that since its last session, progress had been made on the remaining principles. In this connection, the sponsors presented a new version of the working paper

(A/AC.105/C.2/L.154/Rev.10), expressing the hope that it could constitute a solid basis for consensus in the near future.

7. Some delegations expressed the view that draft principle 2 and draft principle 4 could be combined into a single principle providing for a safety assessment to be made publicly available prior to each launch. Other delegations expressed the view that the nature and content of draft principles 2 and 4 were different and that they should remain separate principles.

8. The view was expressed that draft principle 3 on guidelines and criteria for safe use of nuclear power sources in outer space needed certain changes to enhance its technical strength. Other delegations expressed the view that negotiations on draft principle 3 should not be reopened. Some of those delegations noted that draft principle 12, as contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.154/Rev.9, would provide the opportunity to revise the principles in the future.

9. Some delegations expressed the view that, once consensus had been reached on remaining principles, the Subcommittee could review the complete set of principles in order to consider whether any adjustments would be necessary in order to ensure that the principles were properly interrelated and balanced and that they would achieve their intended effect.

10. Some delegations expressed the view that a clear set of principles were required to ensure protection of the Earth's population and environment. Those delegation felt that such a set of principles should include clear provisions for safety standards, notification procedures and definition of responsibility in case of accidents involving nuclear power sources.

11. A statement was made by the representative of the IAEA concerning the consistency of provisions of draft principle 3 with the recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). The Committee noted that some delegations welcomed the participation of IAEA experts in future revisions of the technical guidelines following adoption of the complete set of principles.

12. The Committee agreed that the Subcommittee could invite the IAEA to provide technical views relating to the draft principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space on issues upon which the IAEA had relevant expertise.

13. The Committee urged the Legal Subcommittee to make every effort in its work on the elaboration of the outstanding draft principles in order to arrive at a final text of draft principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space as early as possible.

14. The Committee recommended that the Legal Subcommittee continue consideration of the item at its next session.

2. Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union

15. The Committee noted that the Subcommittee, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/72, had continued to consider this item through its Working Group under the chairmanship of Mr. E. Zawels (Argentina).

16. The Committee noted the work carried out by the Subcommittee and the Working Group, as reflected in their reports (A/AC.105/484, paras. 28-34, and annex II).

17. The Committee noted that a variety of views had been expressed on the question of the definition and delimitation of outer space. Those views were elaborated on and reiterated during the current session of the Committee. Some delegations reiterated the view that the question of delimitation was part of the more comprehensive legal question of the applicability of treaties, that it was necessary to have a conventionally defined boundary between air and outer space and that the Subcommittee should continue to consider the question, with a view to establishing a boundary between air space and outer space. Other delegations reiterated the view that the need for such a definition or delimitation had not yet been established, that attempts to establish prematurely such a definition or delimitation might complicate and impede progress in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, that consideration of the matter was not productive and that the question of the definition and delimitation of outer space should be removed from the agenda or set aside. Still other delegations expressed the view that, in dealing with the question of delimitation, account should be taken of the characteristics of the geostationary orbit.

18. The Committee noted the proposal that the Legal Subcommittee, in its consideration of this item, could consider international legal aspects of future exploitation of aerospace systems. The Committee also noted the indication that a detailed proposal would be submitted to the Subcommittee in the near future as a basis for discussions on the subject.

19. The Committee took note of the deliberations on the question of the geostationary orbit as contained in the report of the Legal Subcommittee. The Committee noted that an exchange of views had taken place on this item, particularly on the basis of the "working non-paper" (A/AC.105/484, annex II, para. 12).

20. Some delegations expressed the view that the geostationary orbit was part of outer space and that its legal status was subject to all provisions of the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies 2/ and to the appropriate rules of ITU, which had the value of a treaty. Other delegations expressed the view that the geostationary orbit, because of its particular characteristics, required a special legal régime

to regulate access and utilization by all States, taking into account the needs of developing countries.

21. Some delegations expressed the view that the roles of ITU and of the Subcommittee were complementary and that the Subcommittee could contribute to the establishment of a special legal régime to regulate the use of the geostationary orbit. Other delegations expressed the view that ITU was the appropriate body to address questions concerning the use of the geostationary orbit and was addressing those questions effectively.

22. Some delegations expressed the view that equitable use of the geostationary orbit required a system of preferential rights, with preference in cases of competing requirements given to developing countries and countries that had not previously had access to the orbit. Other delegations felt that such preferences were inappropriate.

23. Some delegations expressed the view that the Subcommittee might consider the question of removing non-functional space objects from the geostationary orbit.

24. The Committee recommended that the Legal Subcommittee continue consideration of the item at its next session.

3. Consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries

25. The Committee noted that the Subcommittee, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/72, had continued to consider this item through its Working Group under the chairmanship of Mr. R. González (Chile).

26. The Committee noted the work carried out by the Subcommittee and the Working Group, as reflected in their reports (A/AC.105/484, paras. 35-46, and annex III).

27. The Committee noted that a working paper (A/AC.105/C.2/L.182) had been submitted to the Subcommittee under this item and could provide a basis for further discussions, without prejudice to other proposals that had been made or would be made under this item.

28. The Committee noted that some Member States, in response to two notes verbales from the Secretary-General, had provided the Subcommittee with information relating to this agenda item (A/AC.105/C.2/15 and Add.1-13 and A/AC.105/C.2/16 and Add.1-10).

29. The Committee noted that the Working Group had requested its Chairman to prepare, for the next session of the Subcommittee, in 1992, a paper summarizing in an analytical manner the views and information contained in the responses of Members States to the two notes verbales of the Secretary-General.

30. Some delegations expressed the view that it was essential to elaborate legal principles which would ensure that all countries could have access to, and benefit from, outer space activities. They felt that such principles must be established not only to benefit the developing countries, but more importantly, to maintain the peacefulness of outer space and to protect and preserve its environment. They felt that the draft principles on the subject presented by several developing countries in working paper A/AC.105/C.2/L.182 had been carefully drafted to take into account these concerns, as well as the interests of both developed and developing countries.

31. Some delegations expressed the view that future legal principles relating to this item should address the existing inequalities between the technologically advanced space nations and the developing countries without the infrastructure, resources and technological capability to benefit from space exploration and utilization. They felt that those principles should emphasize the development of indigenous space capabilities, particularly in developing countries, as well as ensuring access to space resources and technology and the widest possible diffusion of the benefits of space activities among the peoples of the world.

32. The view was expressed that the new item provided only for an exchange of views on the subject and did not provide a mandate for the negotiation of a new international legal framework. The view was also expressed that the timetable and work programme for this item, as agreed upon by the Subcommittee and endorsed by the General Assembly at its 44th session, should be adhered to as the best course of action for yielding useful results.

33. The Committee recommended that the Legal Subcommittee should continue the consideration of the item at its next session.

Notes

2/ General Assembly resolution 2222 (XXI).

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.105/L.192/Add.3/Corr.1
5 June 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE
Thirty-fourth session
Graz, Austria
27 May - 7 June 1991

C. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirtieth session (agenda item 8)

Corrigendum

Page 1, paragraph 5, add at the end

The Committee noted that during its session the same delegations presented a new version of the working paper (A/AC.105/C.2/L.154/Rev.10), expressing the hope that it could constitute a solid basis for consensus in the near future.

Page 1, paragraph 6, for existing text substitute

6. The Committee noted that informal consultations on the remaining draft principles had continued during its session. As a result of these informal negotiations, the Committee reached consensus on draft principles 8 and 9, which read as follows:

Principle 8: Responsibility

In accordance with article VI of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, States shall bear international responsibility for national activities involving the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, whether such activities are carried on by governmental agencies or by non-governmental entities, and for assuring that such national activities are carried out in conformity with that Treaty and the recommendations contained in these principles. When activities in outer space involving the use of nuclear power sources are carried on by an international organization, responsibility for compliance with the aforesaid Treaty and the recommendations contained in these principles shall be borne both by the international organization and by the States participating in it

Principle 9: Liability and compensation

1. In accordance with article VII of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, and the provisions of the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, each State which launches or procures the launching of a space object and each State from whose territory or facility a space object is launched shall be internationally liable for damage caused by such space objects or their component parts. This fully applies to the case of such a space object carrying a nuclear power source on board. Whenever two or more States jointly launch such a space object, they shall be jointly and severally liable for any damage caused in accordance with article V of the above-mentioned Convention.

2. The compensation that such States shall be liable to pay under the aforesaid Convention for damage shall be determined in accordance with international law and the principles of justice and equity in order to provide such reparation in respect of the damage as will restore the person, natural or juridical, State or international organization on whose behalf a claim is presented to the condition which would have existed if the damage had not occurred.

3. For the purposes of this principle, compensation shall include reimbursement of the daily substantiated expenses for search, recovery and clean-up operations, including expenses for assistance received from third parties.

6 bis. The Committee agreed that in future negotiations of the set of draft principles all delegations should be kept fully informed on developments so that they can properly decide on the adoption of each principle and the resulting set of principles.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.105/L.192/Add.4
5 June 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE
Thirty-fourth session
Graz, Austria
27 May-7 June 1991

D. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status (agenda item 10)

1. In accordance with paragraph 27 of General Assembly resolution 45/72, the Committee took up the consideration of the above item.

2. The Committee noted with appreciation the study prepared at its request by the Outer Space Affairs Division on spin-off benefits of space technology (A/AC.105/486).

3. The Committee took note of the working paper on spin-off benefits of space technology submitted by the USSR (A/AC.105/L.191).

4. The Committee agreed that spin-offs of space technology were yielding substantial benefits in many fields. The Committee noted that spin-offs of space technology were providing new techniques for the field of medicine, including dry heat sterilization, artificial bone matrix and artificial veins and arteries. Spin-off applications for industry have included quality control systems, dry lubricants, precision machining techniques, new materials, food processing and consumer electronics.

5. The Committee noted that the importance of spin-off benefits was growing rapidly. The Committee also noted the importance of international co-operation in developing spin-off benefits of space technology and in ensuring that all countries, in particular developing countries, had access to those benefits.

6. The Committee agreed that there was a need to examine ways to strengthen and enhance international co-operation in the field of spin-off benefits of space technology, through, inter alia, improved means of providing access to spin-offs for all countries, giving particular attention to those spin-offs which could address the social and economic needs of developing countries.

G.91-35818

7. The Committee noted that the United States publication NASA Tech Briefs containing information on technologies available for spin-off applications was now available internationally.

8. The view was expressed that efforts to promote the sharing of spin-off benefits could include the establishment of joint commercial ventures and the sharing of patent rights, particularly with respect to simple practical technologies adapted to local conditions in developing countries, through trade fairs, contributions of demonstration technologies, and through other means of disseminating information to increase public awareness of spin-off technologies and benefits.

9. The Committee recommended that it continue its consideration of the item at its next session.

E. Other matters

10. The Committee noted with appreciation the participation in its work and that of its subcommittees by the representatives of FAO, IAEA, ICAO, ITU, WMO, UNESCO, ESA, INTELSAT, INTERSPUTNIK, INTERCOSMOS, COSPAR, IAF, ILA and ISPRS. The Committee requested that concerned organizations continue to keep it informed of their activities relating to the peaceful uses of outer space.

11. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat invite Member States to submit annual reports on their space activities. In addition to information on national and international space programmes, the reports could include information in response to requests from the Working Group of the Whole as well as information on spin-off benefits of space activities and other topics as requested by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

F. Future work

12. The Committee noted the views expressed by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, as contained in paragraphs 114 to 116 of its report (A/AC.105/483), and endorsed the recommendations contained in those paragraphs concerning the agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the Subcommittee.

13. Regarding the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, the Committee recommended that the Subcommittee, at its thirty-first session, should:

(a) Continue, through its Working Group, the elaboration of draft principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space;

(b) Continue, through its Working Group, its consideration of matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of ITU;

(c) Continue, through its Working Group, consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries.

14. The Committee recalled its recommendation that the Legal Subcommittee, on a permanent basis, should rotate each year the order of consideration of substantive agenda items.

15. Some delegations expressed the view that the traditional three-week duration of the sessions of the Legal Subcommittee was not necessary and that a reduction in the duration would facilitate progress in the Subcommittee and would result in the more efficient utilization of scarce conference service resources. Other delegations felt that the sessions of the Legal Subcommittee should be maintained at three weeks to allow sufficient time for negotiations on the complex legal issues before the Subcommittee and to guarantee substantive results.

16. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/201B (Section III) of 21 December 1989, the Committee considered the question of the venue of the Legal Subcommittee's future sessions.

17. Some delegations expressed the view that the Legal Subcommittee should cease the practice of holding alternate sessions at Geneva, in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, since there were no discernible benefits to justify either the additional costs thereby incurred by the Organization or the continued exception to the General Assembly principle that United Nations bodies should meet at their headquarters. Other delegations expressed the view that the Subcommittee's practice of meeting every other year at Geneva was based on a long-standing consensus agreement in the Committee, that it had been confirmed by the General Assembly, and that it was useful and, therefore, should be continued in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985.

18. Some delegations proposed that a final decision on the present practice of holding alternate sessions of the Subcommittee in Geneva should be deferred until its 36th session in 1993 when it could more fully evaluate the impact of the alternation system on the Committee's operations. In the meantime, they proposed, without prejudice to the final decision, that the next session of the Committee be held in Geneva, that the Secretariat should support that session without incurring additional non-conference-servicing costs, and that the relevant United Nations committees should be informed of these decisions. Other delegations, while agreeing that the next session be held in Geneva pending a final decision on the practice, felt that this should not be subject to conditions relating to cost.

19. The Committee took note of the measures that had been adopted at the thirtieth session of the Legal Subcommittee in order to improve the utilization of conference services. The Committee endorsed the agreement of the Subcommittee that a similar organization of work would serve as the basis for organizing the work of the Subcommittee's thirty-first session.

The Committee recommended that the Chairman of the Subcommittee, in co-operation with delegations, should continue his efforts to improve the efficiency of utilization of conference resources by the Subcommittee.

G. Schedule of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies

20. The Committee indicated the following tentative timetable for 1992:

	Dates	Location
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	18-28 February	New York
Legal Subcommittee	16 March-3 April	Geneva
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	8-19 June	New York

21. The Committee recommended that every effort be made in the future to ensure that the sessions of other committees reporting to the Special Political Committee of the General Assembly, particularly the Committee on Peace-keeping and the Committee on Information, are scheduled so as not to overlap with the meetings of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies.

22. The Committee agreed that in the future every effort should be made to avoid scheduling sessions of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies in periods during which official holidays fall.

H. Tributes

23. The Committee expressed its deepest appreciation and thanks to the Government and people of Austria, the Governor of Styria and the Mayor of Graz for the excellent arrangements that were made for the session and the warm hospitality that had been shown to delegations during their stay in Austria.

24. On the occasion of the appointment of Ambassador Peter Jankowitsch to the post of Secretary of State for European Integration in the Austrian Government and his consequent resignation from the chairmanship of the Committee, the members of the Committee expressed their sincere congratulations and extended their best wishes to him in his important new tasks. They expressed their deep gratitude for his dedicated service to and leadership of the Committee over almost twenty years, during which his devotion to the tasks of the Committee had been a decisive factor in its important achievements in the promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.